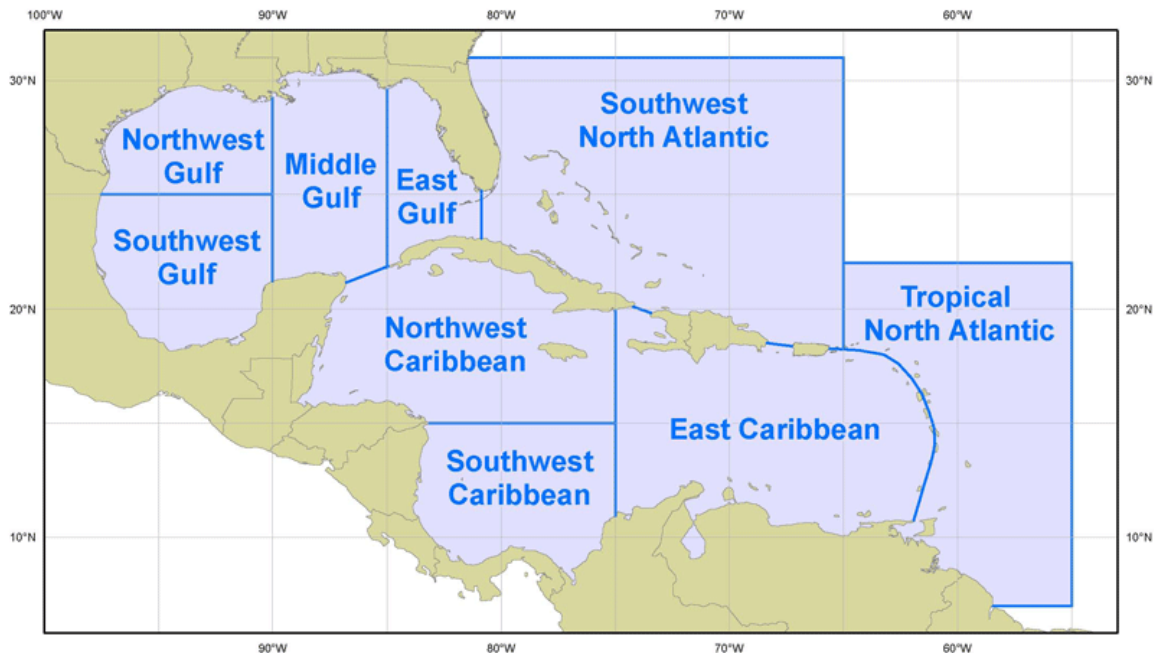




NAVTEX MARINE FORECASTS



- **Purpose**

The International Maritime Organization has designated NAVTEX as the primary means for transmitting coastal urgent marine safety information to ships worldwide. In the United States, NAVTEX is broadcast from Coast Guard facilities in Cape Cod, MA, Chesapeake VA, Savannah GA, Miami FL, New Orleans LA, San Juan PR, Cambria CA, Pt. Reyes CA, Astoria OR, Kodiak AK, Honolulu HI, and Guam. The Coast Guard began operating NAVTEX from Boston in 1983.

NAVTEX coverage is reasonably continuous in the east, west and Gulf coasts of the United States, as well the area around Kodiak Alaska, Guam and Puerto Rico. The U.S. has no coverage in the Great Lakes, though coverage of much of the Lakes is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard.

NAVTEX is an international automated medium frequency (518 kHz) direct-printing service for delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent marine safety information to ships. It was developed to provide a low-cost, simple, and automated means of receiving this information aboard ships at sea within approximately 200 nautical miles of shore. NAVTEX stations in the U.S. are operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. There are no user fees associated with receiving NAVTEX broadcasts. Within the U.S., there are no current plans to broadcast NAVTEX on the alternate designated frequencies of 490 or 4209.5 kHz

NAVTEX is a major element of the [Global Marine and Distress Safety System \(GMDSS\)](#). For further information on NAVTEX, the GMDSS, and worldwide NAVTEX schedules, including coverage diagrams, visit the [U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Telecommunications Information webpage](#).

• Content

TAFB's contribution to the NAVTEX broadcast consists of parsing portions of the exiting Offshore Waters Forecasts, MIAOFFNT3 and MIAOFFNT4 to suit each transmitter's area of coverage within TAFB's area of responsibility. The broadcast includes a synopsis which describes significant surface weather features that may cause significant winds and seas over the forecast area during the forecast period. The synopsis identifies major weather systems and the strength, trend, and movement of each. The most detail is focused in the first 48 hours of the forecast. The synopsis also includes tropical cyclone forecast positions out to 120 hours.

The NAVTEX provides a forecast for winds and seas over the affected area for roughly the next 5 days. The forecast also includes significant weather which would pose a hazard to navigation, such as precipitation or restrictions to visibility. Warnings are issued when conditions are expected to meet the specific warning criteria during the first two periods of the forecast. Thereafter, a headline is used which shows that the conditions are expected to occur at some time after the first two periods.

• Coverage

TAFB issues three separate NAVTEX Forecasts, as shown below with the following AWIPS/WMO headers:

US Coast Guard Miami

AWIPS Header MIAOFFN04 – WMO Header FZNT25 KNHC

Area of coverage: Southwest North Atlantic S OF 31N AND W OF 65W

Portions of Offshore Waters Forecasts parsed into the Broadcast:

- * Southwest North Atlantic S of 31N W of 65W – MIAOFFNT3
- * Northwest Caribbean N of 15N W of 75W – MIAOFFNT3
- * Middle Gulf of Mexico between 85W and 90W – MIAOFFNT4
- * Eastern Gulf of Mexico east of 85W – MIAOFFNT4

US Coast Guard San Juan

AWIPS Header MIAOFFN05 – WMO Header FZNT26 KNHC

Area of coverage: Caribbean Sea and Southwest North Atlantic S OF 31N AND W OF 65W

Portions of Offshore Waters Forecasts parsed into the Broadcast:

- * Southwest North Atlantic S of 31N W of 65W – MIAOFFNT3
- * Tropical North Atlantic from 7N to 22N between 55W and 65W – MIAOFFNT3
- * Caribbean Sea east of 75W – MIAOFFNT3

US Coast Guard New Orleans

AWIPS Header MIAOFFN06 – WMO Header FZNT27 KNHC

Area of coverage: Gulf of Mexico

Portions of Offshore Waters Forecasts parsed into the Broadcast:

- * Northwest Gulf of Mexico N of 25N W of 90W – MIAOFFNT4
- * Southwest Gulf of Mexico S of 25N W of 90W – MIAOFFNT4
- * Middle Gulf of Mexico between 85W and 90W – MIAOFFNT4
- * Eastern Gulf of Mexico east of 85W – MIAOFFNT4

• Issuance / Transmission

NAVTEX Marine Forecasts are transmitted under World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and NOAA Weather Wire Services (NWWS) headers as shown in the following table:

Weather Wire Services (NWWS) headers as shown in the following table:

Transmitter Site	NAVTEX ID	Transmission Times (UTC)
Miami	MIAOFFN04	0345 0945 1545 2145
San Juan	MIAOFFN05	0345 0945 1545 2145
New Orleans	MIAOFFN06	0345 0945 1545 2145